(c) Newspapers having an annual entitlement of upto 200 MT are allotted 100% imported newsprint. Newspapers whose entitlement exceeds 200 MT are allotted indigenous newsprint and imported newsprint in a fixed ratio which is determined on year to year basis.

[Translation]

Irregularities in the Purchase of Rice by FCI in Rampur (U.P.)

3187. SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR : Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state :

(a) whether complaints were received about the purchase of substandard rice by the Food Corporation of India in Rampur (Uttar Pradesh) ;

(b) if so, the action taken thereon ;

(c) whether the proportion of broken rice was found in excess of the approved quantity during the investigation ; and

(d) if so, the action taken in this regard to check the recurrence of such incidents in future ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD (SHRI TARUN GOGOI) : (a) No complaint has been received about the purchase of substandard rice in Rampur (Uttar Pradesh) during the current marketing season 1990-91.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Outstanding amount against Sugar Mills

3188. SHRI SIMON MARANDI : Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state :

(a) whether large amount of the sugarcane producing farmers is outstanding against various sugar mills ;

(b) if so, the State-wise outstanding amount of the farmers against these mills in various regions during 1989, 1990 and 1991, year-wise, along with the number of farmers thereof and the percentage of the interest paid to the farmers at the time of making payments to them and the total amount of interest paid thereof ; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to have the farmers paid their outstanding prices of sugarcane in the last three years ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD (SHRI TARUN GOGOI) : (a) to (c) A statement showing Statewise amount of cane price arrears and the amounts overdue on which interest is payable to growers, for the sugar seasons 1988-89, 1989-90 and 1990-91, as on 15th June each season, is given in the attached statement.

Information regarding the number of farmers in each region/State to whom the aforesaid outstanding amounts are due, the percentage of interest paid to the farmers by sugar mills and the total amount of interest paid thereof is not available with the Central Government.

Ensuring timely payment of cane price is primarily the responsibility of the State Governments who have got the necessary powers and field organisations to enforce such payments. Central Government has requested the State Governments to take requisite steps to liquidate the cane price arrears.